

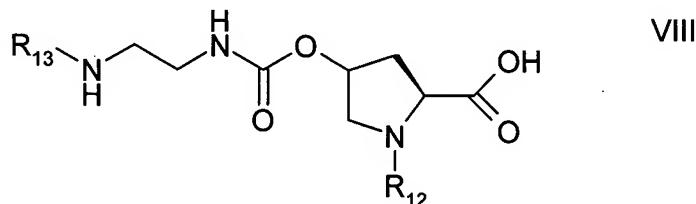
Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

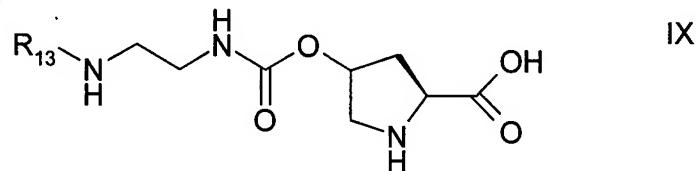
Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (original): A process for preparing a compound of formula VIII



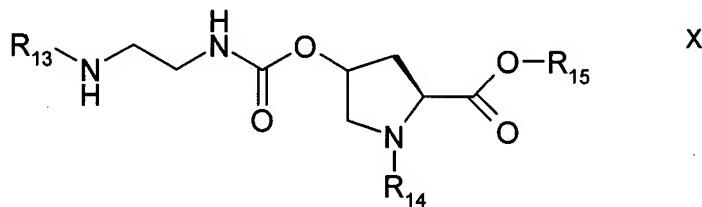
wherein R₁₂ and R₁₃ are each a removable protecting group and R₁₂ and R₁₃ are different; comprising reacting a compound of formula IX



with a suitable R₁₂ donor compound.

Claim 7 (original): A process according to claim 6, wherein the compound of formula IX is prepared by

(i) hydrolysing a compound of formula X



wherein R₁₃ is as defined in claim 6,

R₁₄ is a removable protecting group and R₁₄ is different to R₁₂ and R₁₃, and

R₁₅ is a blocking group removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis, to obtain the corresponding carboxylic acid, and

(ii) removing the protecting group R₁₄ in the resulting carboxylic acid.

Claims 8-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): A process for producing a compound of formula VIII as defined in claim 6, wherein R_{12} is fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl and R_{13} is a removable protecting group other than fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl, comprising reacting a compound of formula IX with a fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl donor compound.